

Message Text

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P 132014Z MAY 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL MTN GENEVA PRIORITY

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FOLLOWING REPEAT NAIROBI 4789 ACTION SECSTATE 12 MAY

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NAIROBI 4789

UNCTAD 017

DEPARTMENT PASS ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD

SUBJ: UNCTAD IV - COMPLETION OF CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

REF: NAIROBI 4670

1. SUMMARY. GROUP B AND G-77 LATE MAY 10 REACHED A COMPROMISE ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF POSTS IN THE FINANCIAL NEGOTIATING GROUP. THIS PERMITTED THE CONSTITUTION OF ALL NEGOTIATING GROUPS AND THEY BEGAN THEIR WORK ON MAY 11. END SUMMARY.

2. LATE MAY 10, FOLLOWING A FULL WEEK'S BARGAINING -- ESSENTIALLY BETWEEN GROUP B AND G-77 -- THE FIVE NEGOTIATING GROUPS WERE ESTABLISHED BY THE UNCTAD IV GENERAL COMMITTEE.

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THE POSTS IN EACH GROUP HAVE PRACTICALLY ALL BEEN FILLED.

(COMPLETE DETAILS BY SEPARAE MESSAGE).

3. AS REPORTED IN REFTEL AND PREVIOUS, THE ESSENTIAL HANG-UP TURNED ON UNWILLINGNESS OF THE WESTERN COUNTRIES TO LET THE G-77 HAVE THE CHAIRMANSHIP AND THE RAPPOREURSHIP OF THE NEGOTIATING GROUP DEALING WITH FINANCIAL AND DEBT QUESTIONS UNLESS GROUP B COULD ALSO BE CERTAIN TO HAVE A HAND IN ANY REPORT TO BE PREPARED. IN FACT, THE ROLE TO BE PLAYED BY THE RAPPOREUR IS UNCLEAR. IT IS EVEN UNCERTAIN WHETHER THERE WILL BE A "RAPORT" AS OPPOSED TO DRAFT RESOLUTION LANGUAGE TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE NEGOTIATING GROUP. NEVERTHELESS, GROUP B -- AT US DELEGATION INSISTENCE -- REFUSED TO LET THE G-77 GET AWAY WITH THIS ONE. THE G-77 ON THE OTHER HAND GOT SNARLED UP TRYING TO SATISFY THE APPETITES OF ITS VARIOUS GEOGRAPHIC GROUPS. THE ASIANS HAD BEEN PROMISED THE RAPPOREURSHIP OF THE FINANCIAL GROUP EVEN THOUGH THE LATIN AMERICANS HAD ALREADY OBTAINED THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE SAME GROUP.

4. FOLLOWING INTENSE BEHIND-THE-SCENES BARGAINING THE NEGOTIATORS REACHED THE DEADLOCK STAGE MAY 10, WITH A RISK THAT THE CONFERENCE WORK MIGHT BE DELAYED FOR SEVERAL DAYS. GROUP B FINALLY SQUEEZED OUT A COMPROMISE UNDER WHICH THE WESTERN VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE GROUP WILL ALSO HAVE THE TITLE OF "ASSISTANT RAPPOREUR." IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY QUALIFIED CANDIDATE WHO COULD BE RELEASED OTHER THAN A SWEDE, GROUP B ON MAY 11 CHOSE ERNEST CHASE OF USDEL (TREASURY) TO FILL THIS POST.

COMMENT:

5. FROM US DELEGATION STANDPOINT THIS EXERCISE HAD SEVERAL OBJECTIVES, NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH WAS TO MAKE CLEAR TO THE SENIOR GROUP B SPOKESMAN, PUTMAN OF BELGIUM, THAT WE INTEND TO PUSH FOR FIRM WESTERN POSITIONS AND SERIOUS BARGAINING RATHER THAN QUICK CONCESSIONS TO "HELP THE G-77 SOLVE ITS DIFFICULT INTERNAL PROBLEMS." WE ALSO FELT THAT AN EASY WESTERN CONCESSION ON THIS MATTER WOULD BE BAD PSYCHOLOGICALLY IN THE FIRST SKIRMISH WITH G-77. WHILE SOME OF GROUP B WAFFLED EARLY ON, MAJORITY STOOD REASONABLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FIRM. AMBASSADOR LAGERFELT OF SWEDEN HELPED STEADY PUTMAN AND WORKED CLOSELY WITH US TO PRODUCE COMPROMISE. AS INDICATED IN REFTEL, A SIGNIFICANT RESULT OF THIS NEGOTIATION WAS TO GIVE GROUP B (AUSTRALIA) THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE WHICH THE G-77 HAD EXPECTED TO HAVE.

DECONTROL MAY 1978.

MARSHALL UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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